

Remarks

Claims 1-31 are pending in the present application. By this Reply, claim 31 has been added. Claims 1, 11, 19, 26, 28 and 29 are independent.

The claims have been amended to clarify the invention according to U.S. practice. Such modifications do not add new matter and are fully supported by the original disclosure.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-14, 19-21 and 25-30 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maniwa (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,866). Claims 11, 14-19 and 21-24 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maniwa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,483). These rejections, insofar as they pertain to the presently pending claims, are respectfully traversed.

In Applicants' embodied invention, a document is scanned to generate scan data. In addition, the system further generates meta data associated with the scan data, wherein the meta data includes data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data and data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data. The scan data and the meta data form a scan file. For instance, as set forth on page 10, line 25 to page 12, line 1 of the present specification, Applicants generate both the scan data (from scanning a document, image, etc.) and meta data that are associated with the scan data. Such meta data include data (application selector code) for selecting a particular application software to be used to process the scan data/file, and data (additional data for directing) used to specify to the selected application software how the scan data/file should be handled by the selected application software. In Applicants' embodied invention, a scan file which includes both the scan data and the meta data is generated. Therefore, in Applicants' embodied invention, any device that receives such a scan file can immediately process the scan data/file appropriately in accordance with the

meta data provided in the scan file without separate intervention by a user or system.

In clear contrast, in Maniwa '866, the application data 84 includes "commands sent to the digital copier device 4 from the host machine 2" where such commands include "a command for setting the scan conditions, a command for editing and processing image data stored in the digital copier device 4, a command for manipulating image-data files of the digital copier device 4, etc."; see column 13, lines 8-14 of Maniwa '866 cited by the Examiner. In other words, in Maniwa '866 a data packet from the scanner (digital copier device) to the host may contain scan data, and a data packet from the host to the scanner may contain commands for processing or manipulating data stored in the scanner. But there is no disclosure in Maniwa '866 of data packets containing both the scan data and the commands for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data and directing the selected further processing of the scan data. The commands discussed at column 13, lines 8-14 of Maniwa '866 are sent from the host machine 2 to the digital copier device (scanner) 4 and are not for selecting a certain further processing of the (associated) scan data/file and/or directing the selected further processing of the scan data/file.

Similarly, Maniwa et al. '483 does not disclose the relevant aspects of the invention. There, a file server maintains a plurality of "scan profiles" specifying scan conditions, but no "further processing" of the scan data/file is selected and/or directed as in Applicants' invention. According to column 23, lines 20-37 of Maniwa et al. '483, as relied upon by the Examiner, the scan file title is specified in the profile and is only intended for identification. It does not include any information on further processing of the associated scan data. If that title has been used already, Maniwa et al. '483 provides a warning to the workstation. Thus clearly, there are no meta data that include both an application selector code and additional directing data, as in Applicants' embodied invention.

Therefore, Maniwa '866 or Maniwa et al. '483 does not anticipate, *inter alia*:

automatically synthesizing the scan data file including the scan data generated during the scanning step and meta data relating to properties of said specific scan job type, said metadata also including data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing said selected further processing of the scan data

as recited in independent claim 1;

automatically generating a composite scan data file that includes the generated scan data and composite meta data comprising an application selector code which selects a certain further processing of the scan data in said server and comprising additional data for directing said selected further processing of the scan data

as recited in independent claim 11;

a unit to automatically generate a composite scan data file including the generated scan data and meta data including an application selector code and additional directing data, together specifying a further processing of the scan data in said server

as recited in independent claim 19;

a meta data object, linked to the image data object, to identify composite meta data at least including an application selector code which selects a certain further processing of the scan file in said server and additional data for directing said selected further processing of the scan file

as recited in independent claim 26;

a second section, linked to said first section, for accommodating composite meta data at least including a predefined application selector code which selects a certain further processing of the scan file in said server and further including operator-completable additional identification data for directing said selected further processing of the scan file

as recited in independent claim 28; and

a first segment to define generic composite meta data including an application selector code field and an additional data field for directing data, said fields together specifying a further processing of the generated scan data file

as recited in independent claim 29.

Further, in some independent claims, such meta data and the scan data are automatically generated as part of a scan data file. This automatic generation of the scan data file including both the scan data and the meta data (including the data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data and additional data for directing the selected further processing) is clearly absent from the applied references.

Accordingly, the invention as set forth in independent claims 1, 11, 19, 26, 28 and 29 and their dependent claims (due to their dependency) is patentable over the applied references, and the rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, Applicant(s) respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicits an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final, in that it raises no new issues but merely places the claims in a form more clearly patentable over the references of record. In the alternative, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it reduces the issues for appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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